

## INFORMATION REPORT

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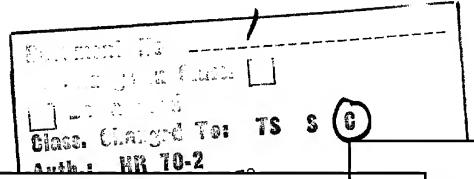
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1. The German Administrative Academy (Deutsche Verwaltungskademie-DVA) was organized in 1948 pursuant to an order of the S.A. working through the Central Administration for Education (Volksbildung) of the Soviet Zone. From the SED side the school is supervised by Walter Ulbricht, which gives some indication of its importance.
2. The mission of the DVA is the training of leading political and economic officials of the Soviet Zone. Ulbricht has let it be known that the Academy will eventually serve all of Germany, and that leading Communists from the Western zones may later study there. Several instructors from the Western Zones are already serving on the faculty.
3. The installation, located at Forst Zinna, near Jüterbog, was formerly an SS camp, and after World War II it was largely dismantled by the Red Army. Its use for the DVA has required extensive rebuilding and at last reports there were still several hundred workmen busy fixing up the various buildings.
4. The students are housed in rooms with from two to five beds, and it is intended to extend facilities so that all can be housed in double rooms. Each student is allowed to retain and use his normal ration card and in addition he is provided with food in a school mess. Coal is plentiful and electric current is not rationed. The workmen around the school, however, are not given the preferential treatment meted out to the student body.



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5. Instructors at the school receive food packages and special ration cards, and it is planned to house them in four-room dwellings now under construction. Their basic pay is around 524 Ostmarks a month, with special premiums for teaching more than six seminar hours, bringing the average totals to from 1000 to 1700 Ostmark, of which 20 percent are tax free.
6. The SED and the Soviet Zone government evidently place great importance on the school. They intend that it should become the center for the theoretical and political indoctrination for officials of the Soviet Zone administration. In the first four-month course, which began in October 1948, the students included Ministerial Directors, Landräte, Lord Mayors, Personnel Referents, Leaders of State-owned corporations, Judges, State Attorneys, and so on.
7. In its general instruction, the Academy does lip service to the "block" political theories espoused by the SED in the Soviet Zone. To give the appearance of objectivity and tolerance, five percent of the students in the first courses were not from the SED, and speakers from the other Soviet Zone parties were allowed to lecture. But even their lectures followed the SED line, and the principal lectures on important issues were given by such SED officials as Ulbricht, Anton Ackermann, Fritz Selbmann, or Prof. Dersch. When speakers from other parties lectured and made slight deviations from the SED line, the seminar instructors, all of whom were SED men or KPD men from the Western Zones, would busy themselves at later sessions pointing out the speaker's mistakes.
8. The examination and marking system of the Academy was similarly distorted for political purposes. A portion of a typical oral examination at the end of a course might go as follows: Examiner: "Is Kurt Schumacher (of the Western Zone SPD) an opportunist or a reformer?" Student: "Both". Examiner: "Wrong! He is an agent of monopolistic capitalism!" In the general marking of students, the attitude of the student toward the Soviet Union and his adherence to the party line play a major role, and students who do not measure up to SED standards in these respects are sure of a poor mark. Now and again, a student from one of the other parties is given a good mark to preserve the illusion of fairness.
9. The heads of the school, in their lectures, frequently expound the theme that free criticism must prevail in all phases of the school's life. In practice this is not possible. While there is, for example, an SED party group organized for the staff of the school, from Director to hired help, it seldom meets, and when it does, none of the ordinary workers ever have anything to say, and no one ventures to criticize anything about the school. During the social functions held from time to time for the student body, faculty, and staff, clear lines of social distinction are always drawn, and no ordinary worker around the school ever dares to address the school Director by anything but his full-resounding title.
10. The suppression of criticism and free thinking is enforced by a system of personnel records, to which only the Soviet Zone Ministry of the Interior and the SED Central Secretariat have access. These records are kept under the supervision of

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the Director and Deputy Director of the Academy, and the instructors have no way of knowing what these two officials do with the recommendations they make on each individual student. There are a number of cases, however, in which the career of the student after the course has indicated that the Director gave an opinion opposed to that of the instructor.

11. The supervision of the students is carried out to an extent which shows that the latter are not trusted at all. Two days before the end of the first course, all light bulbs were removed by the administration, all desk lamps unscrewed, and all bed linen collected, to prevent last-minute theft.

12. Criticism is found in one form in the Academy; criticism of deviations from the party line. A typical case revolved around the definition of the term "People's Democracy." In a lecture, the Deacon of the Law Faculty stated that a "People's Democracy" differed from a "Dictatorship of the Proletariat" because in a "People's Democracy" other classes in addition to the proletariat participated in governing. Many students wrote their theses on this theme, and there was considerable consternation when a short time later Georgi Dimitrov of Bulgaria and Boleslav Bierut of Poland, two leading Communists, stated in public speeches that the "People's Democracies" were forms of the "Dictatorship of the Proletariat." This idea was endorsed and repeated by the "Englische Rundschau" of the SIA and the SED organ "Neues Deutschland". The faculty of the DVA tried to find mistakes in the translations of the Dimitrov and Bierut speeches, but failed. The faculty was faced with the problem of retracting their earlier theory or being charged with deviation, so they scheduled a new lecture on the subject for the last day of that course, and then avoided it by a last-minute change in the schedule.

13. The Faculty of the DVA is a miscellaneous group. The President Dr. Steiniger, is so busy with activities outside the school that he rarely appears. The Vice-President, J. Kropp, has no academic degree and seldom allows himself to become involved in any theoretical discussions. He listens, however, to many lectures and seminars and is quick to note and criticize party line deviations. He is not easily approachable and is generally disliked. As an old-time KPD functionary, he is apparently most anxious to preserve his reputation for loyalty to party tenets. The Deacons of the faculties of Law and Economics both have law degrees, but are true to the party line. Both were trained for their jobs in the Soviet Union after World War II.

14. The rest of the faculty is made up of incongruous elements. Next to some old KPD functionaries and members of anti-Nazi resistance circles, are former officers and holders of the Knight's Cross, former theologians, and others who joined the KPD or SED only after 1945. Only a portion of them have an academic background.

15. The student body of the first four-month course was an equally ill-matched assortment. Their percentage ranged from miners and metal workers to office workers, government officials and professional officers. Of the twenty-one students in the first administrative course, eight had only a Volksschule education, six intermediate school, and seven had finished secondary school (Abitur). Before 1945 their professions included, among others, office employee, independent salesman, official of the German Air Ministry,

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worker, civil servant, owner of a travel bureau, and master sergeant. Their former military rank included Captain, 1st Lieutenant, and military cadet, and all non-commissioned grades. Four had the Iron Cross Second Class, and two the Iron Cross First Class. Next to these former career officers and decorated military men sat others who had spent from several months up to 19 years in jails, prisons, concentration camps or punishment battalions as communists. One had fought in Spain in the International Brigade and lost a leg. Before 1933 they had been communists, social democrats, or belonged to no party. When the class started there was one member of the CIU, one NDP, and 19 SED.

16. While the instructors at the Academy, including those from the Western Zones, did not despair of making good Marxists even out of career officers, the whole atmosphere of the school, the marking system, the close supervision, the ideological narrowness, and the total suppression of free thought and criticism made real education even along the desired lines of intolerance, impossible, and the students merely learned how to appear to follow party dogma.

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